Government does not propose to set up IIT research parks in the country. However, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras has submitted a proposal to set up a research park adjacent to its campus.

Schools covered by EDUSAT

3805. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government and private aided primary schools included under EDUSAT Project under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme, district-wise in the State of Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are planning to extend this project to all the districts;

(c) if so, the time-frame stipulated for this project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Government of Karnataka is covering 1798 Government primary schools under EDUSAT, of which 871 are in Chamrajnagar district, 14 in Mysore district and 913 in Gulbarga district. "Innovation funds" under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) available in the districts have been utilized for software development and hardware for 28 Government primary schools in Gulbarga district.

SSA provides innovations funds to all districts every year.

Faculty strength of IGNOU

3806. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the faculty strength of IGNOU;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the publications of the IGNOU are outsourced despite the presence of sizeable faculty;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken for the faculty development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) As per the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) the faculty strength is 325;

(b) and (c) Ultimate responsibility for producing all course material and conducting all academic activities is that of the University faculty. Services of outside experts are utilized, to the extent necessary, for consultation as well as for writing course material in collaboration with in-house faculty.

(d) The University has a comprehensive faculty development programme, wherein all new teachers are oriented in principles of curriculum design and material development, and periodic refresher courses are also held.

Primary education in Tamil Nadu

3807. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of primary education in Tamil Nadu as a result of implementation of welfare schemes like free distribution of text books, free education and Mid-day Meal Scheme; and

(b) the time by when the target of cent per cent literacy is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As reported by Government of Tamil Nadu, the implementation of welfare schemes like free distribution of text books, free education and Mid-day Meal have resulted in improvement in the following manner:

(i) Net Enrolment Rate (NER) at primary level has increased from 93% in 2002 to 98.48% in 2005 (5.48% increase).

(ii) The Completion Rate has increased from 64% in 2002 to 77.57% in 2005 (13.57% increase).